



WESTMINSTER  
CITY SCHOOL



Year 7 entry



# History

A state-funded comprehensive school for boys, with a mixed sixth form, Westminster City School has a long and rich history.

Our present building in central London opened in 1877. We now combine characterful Victorian buildings, which have been restored and modernised, alongside superb new facilities that include a £6 million state-of-the-art building with space for music and art.

We remain a proud member of the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation, which includes state and independent schools – Emanuel School, Sutton Valence School, Queen Anne's School, and our nearby sister school, The Grey Coat Hospital – and there are many opportunities for collaboration across our Foundation throughout the academic year.

Our inspirational alumni continue to make a difference across the globe. Recent notable alumni include the actor John Boyega, known for his leading role in the latest Star Wars films, and Wes Streeting, MP for Ilford North.

Keep up-to-date with our latest news and activities by following Westminster City School on social media:

 @wcsch  wcs\_school  @WCS\_school

# Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering Westminster City School for your son.

With a long history of educating young people in the very centre of London, Westminster City School has a proudly comprehensive intake and a strong Christian ethos, welcoming those of all faiths and of none. Our diverse pupil body reflects the modern city around us and our community is enriched by 14 out of 17 ethnic groups being represented. Our School's family has links to over 100 different countries across the globe.

At Westminster City School, the caring transformation of our pupils into the responsible global citizens of tomorrow is at the heart of all our standards. We offer exceptional learning opportunities and strong pastoral support to ensure pupils reach their potential. Alongside this, we provide an outstanding range of extra-curricular activities and events, plus guidance on future studies and careers, that equip our pupils with the life-skills and experiences needed to flourish.

From the moment that your son joins our School, both he and you will be part of a strong, supportive and welcoming community. Our founders adopted the motto *Unitate Fortior* - Strength in Unity - which remains as important to us today, as when we first opened in 1877. Members of our School community – pupils, staff, and parents/carers – are united by the purpose, aspiration, culture and character of our School. Our community comes together at times of joy, like our annual carol service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey or our Celebration of Achievement Evening, every July, in the grounds of Westminster Abbey. Yet our community is also united during times that are more testing, such as national school closure to curb the spread of COVID-19 in early 2020. Here we rose to meet the challenge of very difficult circumstances and provided outstanding remote learning and support to all our young people, winning praise from across our School community for our hard work and commitment to excellence.

I understand that choosing a secondary school for your son is a major decision and I hope our prospectus will provide you with further information about our busy and exciting institution. If you have any questions, then please contact us by telephone or email, while attending our open events and tours in September and October will also enable you to see Westminster City School for yourself.

Remember that our website and social media channels are continually updated with our news, events and activities, so please do visit these to find out the latest about life at Westminster City School.

I look forward to welcoming you to our School soon.

**Peter Broughton - Headteacher**

# Notable news

Amazing activities, excellent events and terrific trips take place each week at Westminster City School, alongside our academic lessons. Below are just some highlights from our 2019-20 academic year.

Throughout the year we retain close links to nearby Westminster Abbey, holding termly services and our carol service at St Margaret's Church. At our Re-dedication Service, in September 2019, our pupils and staff heard from the Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, now Bishop of Dover. Pupils also attended an historic event at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, to commemorate the 750th anniversary of its building in October 2019. In November 2019, our cadets were at the opening of Westminster Abbey's Field of Remembrance, in the presence of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

In November 2019, our Japanese exchange took place. Our School has been running this life-changing programme for over 20 years and it offers a full immersion to our pupils, who spend ten days living with their host family, eating Japanese food, attending Japanese schools and absorbing Japanese culture.

Lent term 2020 began with trips outside London, as sixth formers explored topics related to their A Levels in social sciences in Vienna, Austria. Then, in February 2020, almost 100 Year 7 pupils undertook a rewarding, yet muddy, residential trip in East Sussex. Spending three days at a fantastic outdoor education centre in the Ashdown Forest, our intrepid pupils took part in a range of activities, from archery to pioneering, designed to increase resilience and confidence, and teach new skills.

Music remains at the heart of our School. In the last academic year, we saw the English National Opera take over our playground, our Choir and musical ensembles entertain a packed audience at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, and our largest ever parental attendance at our annual carol service. In our Lent term 2020, we were thrilled when six pupils successfully auditioned to join the Chorus for the English National Opera's *Carmen*. Performing nightly onstage at the London Coliseum was a fantastic experience for our singers, while our pupils and staff enjoyed being audience members.

In March 2020, our School celebrated a splendiferous World Book Week with events that engaged, entertained and intrigued all, whilst furthering a love of reading. With around 200 books borrowed weekly from our Library, we maintain a strong reading culture across our School.

Towards the end of March, along with all other UK schools, we closed to help curb the spread of COVID-19. This challenging time drew our already strong community together, with parents/carers praising the fantastic work undertaken by staff to minimise disruption to learning. All pupils and students continued to study and we maintained many elements of our usual school day, such as assemblies or mentoring of our sixth formers, via our online platforms.



*"The Japanese exchange was brilliant! Although it felt strange at first, staying with a different family, I soon settled in and the exchange helped me get a real sense of life in Japan and a real understanding of a completely different culture. It also developed my language skills enormously. I didn't feel homesick at all but made a new home in Tokyo!"*

Year 10 pupil, Akash, took part in our Japanese exchange in November 2019.





*"Before my University of Oxford interview, Westminster City School staff provided support and guidance, even undertaking a mock interview with me. This was very helpful as it allowed me to think further about how I would answer different questions, such as why I wanted to study biochemistry. I was then asked that very question in my actual Oxford interview, just a few weeks later!"*

*"I have always had a real passion for science and I believe it is an important subject for our ever-changing world today. My parents were so proud when I received my offer to study at Oxford."*

Victor studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics within our Sixth Form. He starts his Masters in Biochemistry at the University of Oxford in autumn 2020.



# Achievement

**UK Government figures show our 2019 GCSE results to be above national averages, and significantly above national averages for state-funded boys' schools.**

In the last few years, our pupils have performed particularly well in GCSEs within the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. We are also proud of our results in the creative arts, such as art and music, and in essay-based subjects like history, where we are able to set a really exciting curriculum that engages pupils with interesting historical topics from around the world.

Many of our pupils choose to stay with us for their A Level studies, and our Sixth Form is open to both male and female students. The A Levels that we offer within our Sixth Form are challenging, exciting and rewarding. All can lead onto fantastic university courses and amazing future careers.

In the 2019-20 academic year, 97% of our Year 13 applied to university, receiving offers across a range of courses and institutions for autumn 2020. Our sixth formers made applications to universities within and outside of London, including 21 of the prestigious 24 Russell Group institutions like Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London and University College London. Degrees spanned traditional subjects within science and law, to more contemporary courses like games programming.

At Westminster City School, our young people are supported in their higher education aspirations. Our staff provide extensive advice and guidance including mock interviews, talks from university representatives, attendance at UCAS higher education fairs, and mentoring.

# Life at our School

## **Our School's aspirational culture encourages and inspires our pupils to be their best selves.**

At Westminster City School, your son's day will begin with registration and form time, allowing him to start his day calmly with those who know him well – his friends and his form tutor. A number of assemblies take place during the week, divided by key stage, by year group and by house, which also enable him to feel part of our wider community, as well as interact with others across his year group or house.

During the day, your son will undertake lessons taught by our subject specialists, with a morning break and lunch. Our Dining Hall serves hot and cold food, and many pupils enjoy taking part in extra-curricular activities over lunchtime, as well as before- and after-school.

Throughout the day and after-school, our Library provides a welcoming space for reading and quiet study, holding over 10,000 books, with new titles added regularly. We believe reading for pleasure is key to success and wellbeing so your son will have a weekly reading session in our Library during Years 7 and 8. Over 200 books are borrowed from our Library each week and it is also well used by our older years, especially sixth formers during private study periods.

We use rewards to create a positive ethos amongst pupils and across our School. As well as rewarding attendance and punctuality, we reward work of high quality, work that improves on past achievements, and consistent hard work and service to our community. Assemblies celebrate pupils' achievements, as does our weekly bulletin where achieving a significant number of merits and distinctions is acknowledged. Our annual Celebration of Achievement Evening at Westminster Abbey is another excellent event where pupil achievements are feted.

Our exceptionally high attendance rates, significantly above national averages, demonstrates that our pupils enjoy coming to school and value the opportunities offered to them at Westminster City School.

## **Life after Westminster City School**

Alongside academic studies, we are keen to get our pupils thinking about their future, including university options and career plans, as soon as possible.

Our staff provide advice and guidance, supported with talks by university representatives, participation in summer schools run by top universities, and visits to different institutions. In the 2019-20 academic year, each of our Year 11 pupils undertook a psychometric test and received a careers interview, while a number of Year 9 pupils took part in a taster week at City University, University of London.



*"I joined Westminster City School in Year 12, since the School is well regarded for the STEM subjects that I enjoy. It was also fairly close to my home. I really liked the positive atmosphere here and found people - staff and students - to be very friendly and supportive. For example, when I told my form tutor about my university plans, he arranged two mock interviews for me, at our Sixth Form and at Dulwich College. These were both very useful, particularly as I was then asked similar questions during my university interviews!"*

Mohammed studied A Levels in Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics within our Sixth Form. He starts his MEng Computer Science with a Year in Industry at Imperial College London in autumn 2020.





*"Quincy has so much support, encouragement and understanding from everyone at Westminster City School, and he would not be able to continue to fulfil his passion and enthusiasm for acting without it. My family and I are truly grateful. We know Westminster City School is prepared to walk alongside Quincy, giving continued assistance and encouragement as he progresses through his acting journey."*

Parent of a current Westminster City School pupil and talented young actor. In 2020, Quincy was on location in South Africa, shooting a challenging role in a film about slavery. During his time away from Westminster City School, he kept in touch with our staff, to continue his academic studies.



# Support

**As a relatively small London secondary school, with a proudly comprehensive intake, we maintain a supportive family atmosphere.**

We understand that the transition from primary school to Year 7 can feel daunting, so we run a number of induction events and activities, led by our Head of Year 7 and dedicated pastoral support staff, to help new pupils feel at home.

Once your son joins Westminster City School, the immediate responsibility for his personal welfare rests with his form tutor. He will see his form tutor every day, thus building a close and strong bond. Our form tutors register attendance, monitor academic progress and promote pupils' general wellbeing.

In Years 7 and 8, your son will have most lessons within his form. Our five form intake, with pupils placed in six teaching groups, ensures that class sizes are kept small. This allows other teachers, beyond his form tutor, to get to know your son and support his learning.

As a final layer of pastoral support, your son will be a member of one of our houses, playing his part and contributing to the proud history of our School. Indeed, our School's rich heritage is even reflected in the names of our houses. While Dacre, Hill, Kings and Palmer honour four original benefactors of our Foundation, Waterlow was the name of our first Chair of Governors and St Margaret's marks the church in Westminster Abbey's grounds, where we hold our regular services.

Looking beyond our own community, we endeavour to help those in need and encourage our young people to think about others. In the 2019-20 academic year alone, charity events like Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children, a collection for local charity The Passage at our annual carol service, and our Westminster City School Xmas Factor concert all raised money for deserving causes, both at home and across the world.

# Global citizens

**School is about so much more than academic studies and we strive to develop our pupils beyond the classroom.**

Our extra-curricular clubs take place before- and after-school, as well as at lunchtime. Our pupils can be found researching and taking on the roles of different countries for topical debates at our Model United Nations Society, undertaking exciting experiments at Key Stage 3 Science Club and learning Latin in our Latin Club. Our flourishing Army Cadet Force meets weekly and provides an opportunity for pupils to take part in outdoor pursuits.

Music remains hugely important to, and popular at, our School. We have an active Choir, a busy Orchestra and other musical ensembles who meet before-and after-school, as well as at lunch. We also offer individual instrumental lessons in brass, string and woodwind, plus piano, guitar and drums. There are performance opportunities for pupils throughout the year, including at our weekly assemblies, at our services at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, and at other external venues.

Pupils are kept physically active, with cross-country running, football, basketball, rugby and athletics well-liked. Pupils have access to our on-site facilities, including our large sports hall and outside playground, plus the numerous leisure services and open spaces nearby. Our rugby teams, for example, train at Green Park three times a week during the rugby season.

We make the most of our location in central London by inviting interesting visitors to our School, from discussions and advice with business leaders at Deutsche Bank or Google, to interactive workshops and auditions with the English National Opera and VOCES8.

In the 2019-20 academic year alone, excursions around and across London to places of interest that support learning have ranged from art classes at Buckingham Palace to geography fieldwork in Richmond Park and at Stratford in east London, and from science lectures at the Savoy Theatre to historical studies at the Churchill War Rooms. Almost 100 Year 7 pupils spent three days on a residential trip at an outdoor education centre in East Sussex, while sixth formers explored topics relating to their A Levels in social science in Vienna, Austria.



*"Our Key Stage 3 Science Club meets after-school each week and remains hugely popular. It allows pupils with an interest in science to further their knowledge and undertake exciting experiments that expand their understanding beyond the curriculum.*

*"In the 2019-20 academic year, Key Stage 3 Science Club members made sparklers for Bonfire Night, dropped their own parachutes carrying eggs from our School building, and tested the impressive explosive powers of custard powder, with experiments on how the surface area of a fuel – in this case, custard powder - affects the way it burns.*

*"We also take Key Stage 3 Science Club members on amazing trips meaning that, in the 2019-20 academic year, they visited Imperial College London to be further inspired by a lecture from Britain's first astronaut, Dr Helen Sharman."*



Ms O'Rouke, Science Lead Practitioner.



Photo credit: ENO Carmen 2020 by photographer Richard Hubert Smith

*"In Year 12, I undertook a wonderful placement at Imperial College London, which allowed me to see the ground-breaking research being undertaken there. I had already been interested in a career in research and, through this placement, I gained a first-hand understanding of what life as a researcher would be like.*

*"I remain very grateful to Westminster City School, particularly amazing staff like Ms Adebajo (from our Science Department) who arranged such a rewarding and useful placement. I am looking forward to joining Imperial College London, and furthering my scientific knowledge, as an undergraduate."*

Simon studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics within our Sixth Form. He starts his BSc Biological Sciences at Imperial College London in autumn 2020.



# Opportunity

**We make the most of our unique location, in the heart of London, and have built strong links with external organisations that benefit our young people.**

Our School is well connected to a number of major businesses and companies, including Deutsche Bank, Google, AT&T and PWC. These allow our young people to gain an incredible insight into how businesses operate, whilst building good professional and personal networks.

On an academic level, we retain excellent links with all schools within our Foundation, so can collaborate and share good practice. We also have strong connections to a number of world-leading universities, including Imperial College London and University College London. These enable our young people to attend top lectures, fascinating summer schools and inspiring placements, whilst building valuable knowledge about future university study.

Since music plays a key role in our School, we provide many opportunities for all to enjoy and to participate. Organisations like VOCES8 and the English National Opera frequently visit us to host workshops and activities, and to audition our pupils. In early 2020, six of our pupils were cast in the Chorus for the English National Opera's *Carmen*, so performed on stage at the London Coliseum (see picture, opposite). Our Choir remains exceptionally busy and sought after, performing in locations as diverse as Westminster Abbey, New Scotland Yard and a five-star Taj Hotel in London.

We retain a unique spiritual connection to nearby Westminster Abbey. Each year a number of our pupils are confirmed at the Abbey by the Bishop of London, while we use St Margaret's Church for all our regular services.

Our central location ensures a safe and easy commute for both pupils and staff, whilst allowing us to undertake regular visits and trips to museums, galleries, theatres, exhibitions, lectures and other places of interest, both across London and further afield.

# Academic excellence – Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum for Years 7 and 8 is broad and balanced, providing a strong foundation for future study. We aim to meet the needs of individual learners and to enable every opportunity for success.

Your son will be taught by subject specialist teachers from his first day at Westminster City School. This is in contrast to primary school, where your son was probably taught by one teacher covering a number of subjects.

For the majority of Key Stage 3 lessons, your son will be in his mixed ability form group. It is only in mathematics and science that your son will be taught in ability groups. These groups are regularly reviewed and there are plenty of opportunities during the year to move groups, in order for your son to make the best progress.

Like all our pupils, your son will study a comprehensive personal, social, health and citizenship education programme (PSHCE), which includes economic and political awareness, plus careers education. This enables us to discuss relevant and topical issues which improve the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our pupils, allowing them to participate positively to life in modern Britain.

## Key Stage 3 timetable

Westminster City School pupils relish the challenge and variety of our Key Stage 3 subjects. Our week has 30 periods, divided in Years 7 and 8 as shown:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Year 7</b> Lessons per week	<b>Year 8</b> Lessons per week
Art and Design	One	One
Computer Studies	One	One
Design and Technology	None	One
English	Five	Five
Geography	Two	Two
History	Two	Two
Mathematics	Five	Five
Music	One	One
Physical Education	Two	Two
PSHCE	One	None
Reading	One	One
Religious Studies	Two	Two
Science	Five	Five
Spanish	Two	Two

Any of our pupils who need extra help with numeracy, reading or writing, or for whom English is an additional language, are helped in lesson by a support assistant. They may also be withdrawn from some lessons to meet individual requirements. Additionally, some pupils are offered alternative programmes of study in our nurture group.

## Looking ahead

Currently, towards the end of Year 8, your son will be supported in choosing his options for Key Stage 4. This personalised learning route is designed to be appropriate to his individual needs and aspirations.

# Academic excellence – Key Stage 4

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum for Years 9, 10 and 11 is dynamic and innovative, ensuring all pupils progress at a rate best suited to them.

Your son will study a compulsory core of GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Religious Studies. A humanities subject is also compulsory, so your son will choose either History or Geography but can do both, if he wishes. Your son will then choose three further GCSE options and continue to participate in our PSHCE days.

At Westminster City School, pupils currently study GCSEs from Years 9 to 11, as this gives the maximum opportunity to gain the highest grades, whilst allowing greater enrichment and enjoyment of the curriculum. Some may sit exams at the end of Year 10, if they are likely to meet or exceed their target grade. Others have the opportunity to study vocational subjects, plus GCSE courses.

## Key Stage 4 courses

We offer the following compulsory subjects:

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Science (Combined) or separate studies in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

GCSE Religious Studies

We offer the following options:

GCSE Art and Design  
GCSE Business Studies  
GCSE Computer Science  
GCSE Design and Technology  
GCSE Economics  
GCSE Geography  
GCSE History  
GCSE Music  
GCSE Physical Education  
GCSE Spanish  
BTEC Enterprise  
BTEC Sport

In addition, all pupils receive dedicated learning in games, citizenship, careers, PSHCE, and work-related learning.

Those pupils that complete GCSE Mathematics or other GCSEs at the end of Year 10 are offered the chance to sit an AS Level qualification and GCSE Further Mathematics.

Please note that courses on offer may be subject to change, depending on interest from pupils.

## Our Sixth Form

We offer an outstanding mixed sixth form experience, which prepares our male and female students for future study and employment. Our Sixth Form combines academic excellence with guidance on applying to university, a rich careers programme, extra-curricular activities, and pastoral support.

In the 2019-20 academic year, 97% of our Year 13 applied to start university in autumn 2020, receiving offers across a range of course and institutions, in and outside of London, and including prestigious Russell Group universities like Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London.

*"Our intention is that all Westminster City School pupils, regardless of ability, follow a curriculum that enables achievement of at least nine good GCSE grades, including English and Mathematics as minimum. This provides a broad and balanced foundation that is appropriate for almost any 16-19 pathway, and thus the best opportunity for future success."*

Mr Peter Broughton, Headteacher

# Location

Based in the heart of London, our School is just minutes from major landmarks like Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

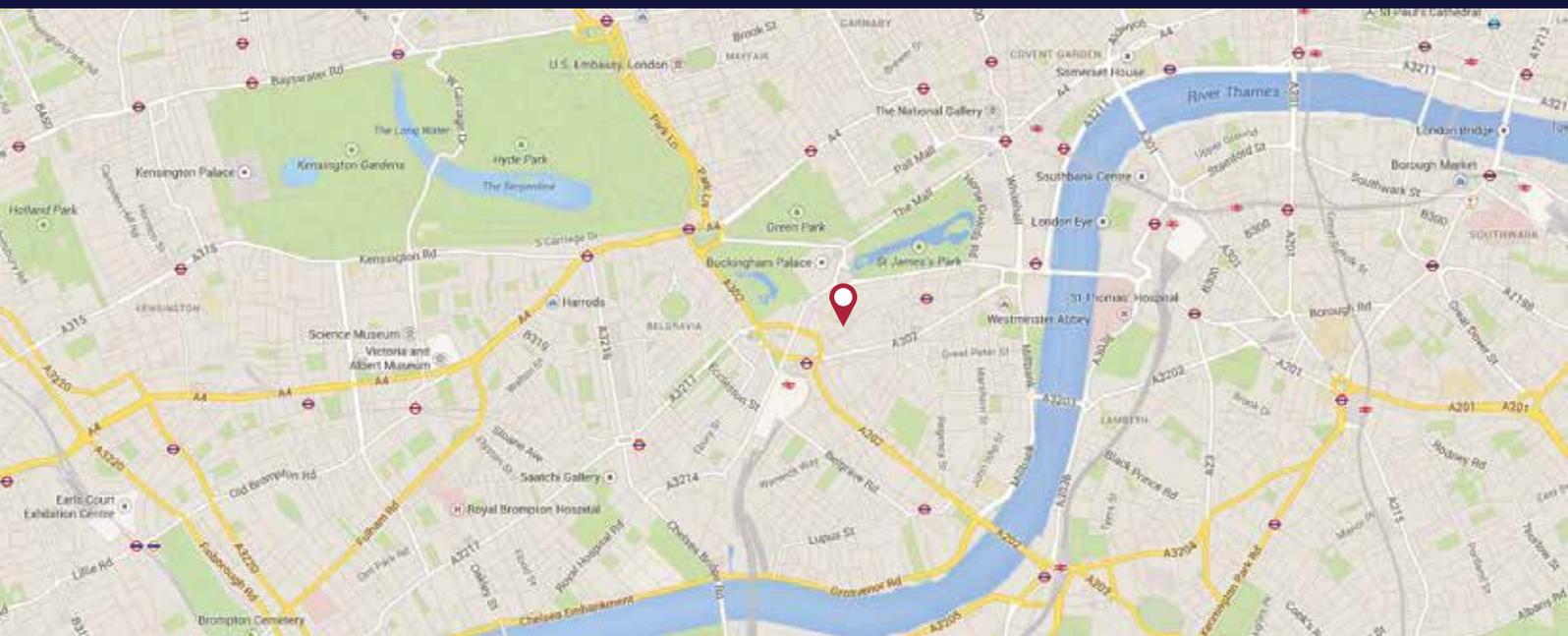
Transport links to our School are excellent, enabling a safe and smooth commute for pupils and staff. We are only a short walk from Victoria train and tube station (Circle, District and Victoria lines), and from St James Park tube station (Circle and District lines). We are also served by around 20 different bus routes.

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# Purpose

Our strong Christian ethos underpins a common moral purpose and all members of our School community - be they of the Christian faith, other faiths or no faith - are bonded by the four values that underpin this purpose:

## Wisdom

We nurture wisdom by developing academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence, resilience and creativity in all.

*Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. (Psalm 119.66)*

## Integrity

We foster integrity by encouraging all young people and adults in our community to match words with deeds, fulfil commitments and take responsibility for their behaviour.

*Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show sincerity, dignity, and sound speech (Titus 2.7)*

## Compassion

We cultivate compassion by valuing each person in our community and empowering them to share their gifts and aspirations.

*I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13.34)*

## Excellence

We develop excellence by ensuring all in our community do their best, take pride in achievements and are open to change and learning from others.

*Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10.31)*



WESTMINSTER  
CITY SCHOOL

# Joining our School

Applications for Year 7 entry must be received by 31 October of the year before proposed entry.

## Applying

To apply for your son to join Westminster City School in September, you must:

- complete and submit your online local authority application form for the borough in which you reside, entering details of schools in your order of preference
- decide which place you are applying for at Westminster City School – Christian (both Church of England and other denominations), Other World Faith, or Open – and supply details about your place of worship, if applying for a faith place
- complete and submit our Westminster City School supplementary form, which is available on our website at: [www.wcsch.com](http://www.wcsch.com)
- attend our banding test, at our School, in early November

Our School will offer around 150 places for Year 7 entry each September. As a proudly comprehensive school, these places will be within the full range of abilities. Of these 150 places, 60% are Christian places (20% Church of England and 40% other Christian denominations), 20% are other world faith places, and 20% are open places.

## Transition

The transition from primary school to Year 7 can feel daunting. Led by our Head of Year 7 and dedicated pastoral support staff, we will ensure your son quickly settles in, makes friends and enjoys coming to school.

Like every new Year 7 pupil, your son will have a one-to-one meeting at our School and be visited in his primary school. You and your son will also have the opportunity to complete his induction with a special day at our School, before the start of the academic year.

In addition, a named member of staff will be dedicated to ensuring the wellbeing of your son while at our School, and our house system and strong pastoral support allows all within our new Year 7 cohort to immediately feel at home.

## Keeping in touch

During the academic year, you will receive regular updates via telephone, text, email, letter and parents' evenings. Our Headteacher holds a termly Headteacher's Forum, where you can meet and discuss topics of interest with him and other parents/carers.

We will also send you a weekly email bulletin, containing news and diary dates, while our website and social media channels are regularly updated with our latest news and activities.